FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JANUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iran launched a "second phase" of its Karbala 5 offensive over the weekend during which Iraqi casualties rose to 16,000, IRNA reported. The agency said that other Iraqi losses in Karbala 5 include the capture of 1,165 prisoners and 50 tanks, the shooting down of 32 Iraqi planes, and the destruction of over 200 tanks and APC's. Iranian troops reportedly captured three Iraqi outposts and severed links between Iraq's III and VII Army Corps.

However, Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio spoke of a "great victory" in which thousands of Iranians were wiped out in further fruitless attacks on Iraq's III Corps. An Iraqi commander stated that Iran lost 5,000 men and 250 tanks the night of 11 January, INA noted, and the deputy chief of Iraq's Armed Forces subsequently asserted that Iranian losses in Karbala 5 are double those it sustained in the Karbala 4 offensive over Christmas. The Iraqi communiques acknowledged the loss of four Iraqi aircraft 9-11 January, and a military spokesman cited by INA ridiculed Iran's claims to have shot down large numbers of Iraqi planes. An Iranian spokesman denied an Iraqi claim that two Iranian F-5's were shot down over the southern battlefront 9 and 10 January, according to IRNA.

The fighting near Basra was accompanied by an intensification of the "war of the cities," with both sides launching air and missile strikes at civilian areas. IRNA reported that 33 Iranian civilians were killed and 369 were wounded in Iraqi missile attacks on Nahavand and Borujerd 11 January. "Scores" were killed in a similar attack on Ilam. The agency announced earlier that 135 civilians were killed and 415 were injured in 10 January air and missile attacks on Borujerd, Esfahan, Ramhormoz, and Nahavand, while 137 were killed in the 9 January Iraqi air raid on Susangerd. Iraqi raids on Qom were repelled by air defenses, IRNA claimed.

Regarding attacks on Iraqi cities, IRNA said Iran launched a missile at the "heart" of Baghdad 11 January, while Basra was hit with short-range "Eagle" missiles. Iraqi communiques stated that "a number" of civilians were killed in the attack on Baghdad and that 58 civilians were killed and 186 wounded in Iranian artillery and air attacks on Basra and other residential areas 9-11 January.

On the diplomatic level, INA reported that Iraq welcomed a Soviet call for a negotiated settlement of the conflict, citing a Foreign Ministry statement that Iraq is ready to cooperate with the USSR or with any other country to seek peace within a UN framework. In contrast, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi denounced Soviet military support for Iraq, asserting in remarks reported by Tehran radio that the USSR is "treading the path taken by the United States."

Libya and Chad

A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement broadcast by Tripoli radio 10 January announced that Libya "accepts" an Algerian proposal to seek a solution to the Chadian problem "within an African framework and under the aegis of the OAU." Emphasizing Libya's desire for a peaceful solution of the conflict, the statement contended that France's military buildup in Chad is "fanning the flames" of civil war in that country. In another development in Tripoli, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei held a 9 January press conference during which he denied Ndjamena radio's announcement that his forces have joined Chadian President Hissein Habre's army. According to Tripoli radio, Goukouni urged GUNT factions to end their differences and he also pledged that he will remain a "loyal friend" to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Ndjamena radio said Goukouni's remarks have no credibility as they were made under Libyan pressure, noting that Goukouni was surrounded by Libyan officials during the "carefully arranged" press conference.

Regarding Soviet interest in the Chadian situation, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio noted that Al-Qadhdhafi received a message from Soviet leaders 9 January. The radio said the message focused on intervention in Chad by the United States, France, Zaire, and the CAR. Meanwhile, editorials by the Libyan paper *Al-Jamahir* called for more active Soviet involvement in Chad, according to TANJUG and AFP. The paper reportedly warned that unless the USSR takes measures against the "imperialist attack" in Africa, friends and allies of the Soviet Union will have no arguments to defend it against its enemies. The Yugoslav agency said this indicates that the Libyan leadership was not satisfied by Moscow's verbal condemnations of French-U.S. intervention in Chad.

As for the military situation in Chad, Ndjamena radio reported that Libyan planes launched further raids on the northern town of Zouar 11 January. Communiques broadcast by the radio noted clashes between Libyan and Chadian forces in the Yebbi-Bou area of the Tibesti region over the weekend, stating that 15 Libyans were killed and two Libyan T-55 tanks were destroyed. The Libyans also suffered "heavy losses" in an 8 January battle near Bardai, a communique said.

Israel

Raid on Lebanon — Israeli warplanes attacked "terrorist" targets southeast of Sidon 12 January, scoring hits on Palestinian command posts and weapons depots, IDF radio reported. The raid followed the wounding of an IDF soldier by a mine explosion in southern Lebanon, as reported by the radio. In another development, the IDF is investigating the "regrettable incident" in which an Irish UNIFIL soldier was killed by IDF fire in southern Lebanon 10 January, according to an IDF spokesman's

statement reported by Jerusalem radio. He said the Irishman was inadvertently killed by IDF fire aimed at a terrorist squad.

U.S.-Iran Arms Deal — Davar reported 11 January that Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met "approximately 1 year ago in London" with Israeli businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi and with David Kimche, who was then director general of the Foreign Ministry. The paper added that former U.S. national security adviser Robert McFarlane was also present at the meeting, during which Hashemi-Rafsanjani handed over a list of some 80 Iranian political and military leaders whom he considered to be pro-Western in outlook. As for the U.S. Senate investigation into the U.S.-Iran affair, *Davar* said that Israel "does not agree" to a visit by U.S. investigators, adding that Kimche, Nimrodi, and other Israelis involved in the matter have been told that they will not be allowed to be questioned by the investigators.

Details released in Washington on Israel's role in the arms sale were dismissed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as "inaccurate and unfounded," according to Jerusalem radio. At an 11 January cabinet meeting, Shamir stressed that Israel did not initiate the arms sales to Iran and that it did not transfer funds to the Nicaraguan contras, IDF radio noted.

Syria

The Lebanese magazine *Al-Nahar Al-'Arabi wa Al-Duwali* reported that Syria has received a squadron of MiF-31 aircraft from the USSR, according to KUNA. An "informed source" cited by the magazine said this was in accordance with an arms deal signed by President Hafiz al-Asad during a visit to the Soviet Union last year.

Afghanistan

After previously rejecting Najibullah's cease-fire overtures, the top seven leaders of Peshawar-based rebel groups are to hold a joint meeting in Peshawar 12 January to reconsider the PDPA general secretary's proposals, Tokyo's KYODO news agency reported. The mujahidin reportedly reconsidered their previous stance on Kabul's reconciliation offer after a press conference given by the Afghan UN representative and positive reactions by Pakistani politicians to the DRA proposals. An editorial in the 5 January edition of the Karachi daily *Dawn* echoed the more conciliatory mood when it termed the U.S. and Afghan rebel groups' rejection of the cease-fire "unduly hasty" and pointed to "new and promising elements" in the proposal.

Iran

Islamic Summit Venue — Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati restated his country's opposition to convening the Islamic summit in Kuwait during a 10 January meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, Tehran radio reported. Velayati cited Kuwaiti supply of war materiel to Iraq and "lack of security" as reasons for Iran's refusal to accept the summit venue.

Former Official's Confession — A former Majlis deputy confessed to complicity with "anti-Islamic elements" in a 9 January televised interview, IRNA reported. Mowlavi Nazar Mohammad Didgah, who represented the city of Iranshahr before his arrest 4 December on charges of "sowing discord among the people," said he had engaged in "illegal activity" favorable to the Iraqi regime. The former deputy expressed hope that he would be able to compensate for his misdeeds.

PLO-Spanish Talks

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez have "expressed concern" over the alleged U.S. supply of arms to Iran, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. The two leaders, who met in Tunis 11 January, also said the United States should "play a positive role" in the effort to end to the Iran-Iraq war. The 'Arafat-Gonzalez talks focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the "xerious" situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and the situation in the occupied territories, Sanaa Voice of Palestine noted.

Sudan

A senior Sudanese Government official confirmed that a cabinet reshuffle will take place shortly in the coalition government, according to an 11 January SUNA report. Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn said the cabinet reorganization, involving the Democratic Unionist Party and the Al-Ummah Party, will take place before March.

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Najibullah, Tribal Elders Discuss Reconciliation
LD111139 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 10, BAKHTAR — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA, CC, received elders, and people's representatives of Andkhvoy, Dowlatabad, and Shirin Tagab Districts of Faryab Province and Chieftains of Gardeyz and Mangal, Ahmad Zai and Zadran tribes of Paktia Province of the DRA in Dilkushah Palace as well as at the headquarters of the PDPA, CC.

In the course of the meeting, Najib, talked about the policy of the PDPA and state of the DRA pertaining to national reconciliation, cessation of bloodshed, and ensuring nation-wide peace in the country.

People's representatives and the tribal chiefs, during their meeting with Najib, put forward their proposals and views and expressed their all support and all-sided cooperation for this constructive and bold initiative of the state and the party as the people (?are) tired of war and cherished peace and security.

While appreciating the support extended by the elders and tribesmen for achieving national reconciliation Najib said that the party and the revolutionary sovereignty have declared national reconciliation not because of any weakness on their part but with the honest and noble desire of rescuing the country as well as the people from bloodshed and fratricide.

I have no doubt, Najib stressed, all people, who are really interested in the construction of a blossoming society in Afghanistan with peace and security, will certainly support the policy of the party and state of the DRA on national reconciliation and honestly strive for its implementation.

Chamkani Attends Tribal Assembly on Reconciliation
LD111142 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 10, BAKHTAR — The Jirgah of the elders, clergymen, and representatives of Samkanai tribe of Paktia Province, bordering Pakistan, held here, has supported the policy of national reconciliation announced by the party and state of the DRA to end the fratricidal war in the country.

Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, who participated in the Jirgah, pointed out the historical significance of the policy of national reconciliation to end the fratricide and ensuring peace and tranquility in the country.

Rahmatullah Samkaniwal, Destagir Khan, and Gul Mohammad Khan, on behalf of the participants of the Jirgah expressed their readiness for ensuring nation wide peace in the country.

Reconciliation Commissions Set Up; Sessions Held
LD111020 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] National reconciliation commissions were established yesterday in the provinces of Herat, Balkh, Paktia, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Fariab, Nangarhar, Bamian, and Samagan. The commissions have held their first sessions.

During these sessions, after the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Koran, the representatives of the tribes and nationalities of the country, ulema, theologians, social figures, representatives of social organizations, and the people's representatives from the various classes of the country, as well as a number of party and state officials spoke about the national reconciliation policy which has been declared by our party and revolutionary state to end the fratricide and war in the country and ensure peace and fraternity. They expressed appreciation for this humanitarian and peace-loving policy of the party and state.

During these sessions, the commissions' heads, deputies, and presidia were elected in a free and democratic climate. This involved ulema, theologians, social figures, workers, peasants, tribes' leaders, and members of party and state organizations.

The BAKHTAR correspondents report from these provinces:

Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the Political Bureau and minister of communications, took part in the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Herat; Comrade Najmoddin Kawiani, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the organization section of the party Central Committee, took part at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Balkh; Sayd Akram Paygir, head of the documents and relations section of the party Central Committee, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Fariab; Burhan Ghiasi, minister of higher and vocational education, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Nangarhar; Shazar Lewal, deputy-minister of nationalities and tribal affairs, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Paktia; Aziz Majidzada, head of the control section of the party Central Committee, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for the national reconciliation in Samangan; Mohammad Osman Rasekh, DRA attorney general, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Badakhshan; Mohammad Wali, deputy-head of the organizational section of the party Central Committee, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Jowzjan; Mohammad Awaz Nabizada, deputy-minister of nationalities and tribal affairs, at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national reconciliation in Bamian; and the secretary of the party provincial committee of Baghlan took part at the founding session of the extraordinary commission for national commission in that province.

The BAKHTAR correspondents add that during these session, talks were held on the responsibilities and working methods of the extraordinary commissions' members. Having assessed the views and proposals, the commissions made the necessary decisions.

These sessions ended with prayers to ensure national reconciliation and compromise and an end to fratricide and war in the country.

Further Commissions Established

LD121102 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] In line with the decisions of the Jadi extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee and the announcement of the DRA Revolutionary Council in relation with national reconciliation, today extraordinary cadres of national reconciliation in the Helmand, Parwan, Konar, Ghazni, Badghis, Wardag Provinces and the district of Nangarhar Province were formed and held their first meetings.

These meetings, which began with the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Koran, a number of ulema, religious leaders, elders, and chiefs of various tribes spoke about the importance of the policy of national reconciliation for the maintenance of nationwide peace and national compromise, which has been announced by our revolutionary state and party. They expressed appreciation and welcome for the compromise; they expressed every sincere readiness toward achieving this sacred aspiration.

According to reports by the BIA correspondents from these provinces, during these meetings the heads, deputies, and leading delegations of the extraordinary commissions of national reconciliations, including workers, peasants, ulema, and religious leaders, the elders of tribes and social personalities, were elected in a free and democratic atmosphere. Also at the meetings, the work method and activity of the commission members were discussed and after additional discussion, decisions were made concerning a series of proposals in this regard.

The BIA correspondents add that Comrade Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee took part at the commission meeting at Helmand Province; Comrade Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part at the commission's meeting in Parwan Province; Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part at the commission meeting in Konar Province; Comrade Abdorrashid Arian, vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council and in charge of the control department of the party Central Committee, took part at the commission's work in Badghis Province; Seyyed Masir Ma'nawi, first deputy head of the investigation commission of the PDPA Central Committee, took part at the commission's work in Wardag Province; Abdol Qader Ashna, chairman of the State Committee for Culture took part at the commission meeting at the Shinwar District, Nangarhar Province. The meetings of the commissions concluded with prayers for national reconciliation and national peace in Afghanistan and the cessation of bloodshed in the country.

Timetable for Soviet Troop Withdrawal Viewed

AU092025 Paris AFP in English 2018 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan 9 (AFP) — The Afghan Government will propose a "shorter timetable" for Soviet troop withdrawal from the country at next month's indirect negotiations in Geneva, Afghan Ambassador to the United Nations Mohammed Farid Zarif said Friday. He did not specify what the timescale might be but said he thought a solution "acceptable to all" would emerge from the UN-sponsored talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The timetable for Soviet troop withdrawal has been a major obstacle in previous negotiations. Initially Kabul proposed that the 120,000 Soviet troops withdraw over a four-year period, but Islamabad insisted on four months. After seven years of military involvement in the country, the Soviet Union is increasingly interested in a negotiated settlement that would allow them to withdraw, observers say.

Earlier this month the Soviet-backed Kabul government proposed a unilateral ceasefire, starting January 15, and opening of talks with guerrilla leaders. According to Mr Zarif, some 417 rebel groups, with a total of 40,000 members, agreed to cooperate with the government. However, opposition leaders with bases outside the country said that they would respect the ceasefire only if Soviet troops withdrew immediately, a demand which Mr Zarif described as "unrealistic."

Peshawar 'Guerrillas' To Reconsider Cease-Fire

OW111211 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 11, KYODO — The top seven leaders of Peshawar-based guerrilla groups will hold a joint meeting in Peshawar on Monday to reconsider an offer by Afghan Communist Party leader Najibullah of a ceasefire beginning January 15 and to start a dialogue for reconciliation, reports from the border city said.

The resistance leaders had earlier rejected the ceasefire and reconciliation offer, but subsequent developments, such as a press conference given by the Afghan Government representative at the United Nations and positive reactions of Pakistani politicians are reported to have led them to review their initial position, observers here said.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad released details of a national reconciliation commission set up earlier this month which has authority to invite "some national religious figures from neighboring countries to further a total cessation of the undeclared war." The embassy said the January 15 ceasefire should be initially for a period of six months and could be extended if there was a positive response by the guerrillas, with a view to creating "national unity government" giving of "a coalition character."

AFP Reports Kabul Radio Wooing Mujahidin

BK100810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 10 Jan 87

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 10 (AFP) — Afghanistan's state-run Radio Kabul has started broadcasting slogans of "Make love not war" to guerrilla fighters in the wake of a government ceasefire offer.

With the unilateral six-month ceasefire due to come into effect next Thursday, Radio Kabul has changed its tone and slowed its propaganda against "bandits" and "counter-revolutionaries" — the official jargon for the Moslem rebels opposing the seven-year-old Soviet-backed regime — its listeners said. Broadcasts are now interspersed with music and love poetry. A recent example of a poem aired by the radio for Pushtu and Farsi listeners was:

"Our friendship was pretty and sweet. Who sowed the discord? People will say many things to divide us. But my love. Let us pledge not to betray each other."

Echoing traditional Afghan poetry in emotional national songs, one radio broadcast, implicitly blaming foreign interference for the problems in Afghanistan, said:

"My country Afghanistan is full of love. But divisive elements are separating us."

The official media has also started releasing figures of rebels reportedly surrendering arms in troubled regions. In Herat, bordering Iran, media reports said a mujahidin commander, Syed Ahmad, laid down arms with 1,000 men in response to Afghan leader Najibullah's peace call. But the Jamiyat-e-Eslami rebel group noted that even the main Herat commander, Ismail Khan, dit not possess such force. A Jamiyat spokesman told AFP in a telephone call from the border town of Peshawar that Mr Ahmad, named in the Afghan media, had only 20 persons with him whem he expressed his readiness to talk to the Najibullah regime.

Meanwhile, according to a news bulletin monitored here Friday, Kabul Radio announced that "peace commissions" headed by senior party officials had been set up in nine of the 29 Afghan provinces in order to promote national reconciliation.

U.S. Undermining National Reconciliation

LD111134 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 10, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The courageous decision of revolutionary Afghanistan with regard to the declaration of national reconciliation has been warmly welcomed not only by the broad masses of the Afghan society but also by the political and social circles all over the world.

These decisions are in accord with the teachings and traditions of Islam and the people of Afghanistan have realised that the party and state make every effort for peace, understanding, brotherhood, and the happiness of the people. The righteous cause of national reconciliation has determined the positions of the friends and enemies of the people of Afghanistan. Our friends, who are really interested in the ensurance of peace and the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, have expressed their support for national reconciliation in the DRA. The stand of the USSR is quite clear in this connection.

The talks of the leaders of the DRA and the high-ranking delegation of the Soviet Union in Moscow were frank and open. The Soviet Union will not refrain from any cooperation for accomplishing this righteous cause of the people of Afghanistan, that is, national reconciliation, ensuring peace and security in Afghanistan. This peaceful initiative of the DRA has been warmly received by the political and social circles of different countries of the world.

But, the Reagan administration and some of its allies seem to be desperate. They have come out against the initiation of national reconciliation, even at the highest political levels.

Lately, Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defence, in his interview with one of the American television networks, has deliberately attempted to undermine the goodwill and the honest efforts of the Soviet Union for ensuring peace in Afghanistan, as if he does not believe that the limited Soviet military contingents will return to their country. This is one of the propaganda campaigns launched by the Western mass media after the declaration of national reconciliation in the DRA. Some of the mass media of the imperialist countries want to create distrust and fear among the Afghans on policy of national reconciliation through lies and distortion and misrepresentation of facts.

The crux of the matter is that the ominous political aims of imperialists can not be realised once peace is secured in Afghanistan and they want to continue fratricide and bloodshed in the country.

Belgian Trade Promotion Working Group Arrives

BK100735 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Two working groups on bilateral development, cooperation, and trade promotion were formed at the inaugural session of the third joint commission meeting of Bangladesh and Belgium held in Dhaka this morning. Official level working group on bilateral development cooperation will review and examine the utilization of state credit, the development cooperation program under the special grant made available to Bangladesh, the direct bilateral aid program, and other related issues.

The trade promotion working group will review the evolution of bilateral trade, opening up of Bangladesh trade center in Brussels, and other issues.

The working groups will finalize and prepare a draft agreement which will be signed on 13 Janaury for bilateral economic trade and technical cooperation between the two countries for the next 5 years. It was also decided at the meeting that Belgium private sector investors and their Bangladesh counterparts will discuss private sector investment cooperation.

Belgian Official on Relations

BK110310 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] The visiting Belgian secretary of state for development cooperation, Mr Andre Kempinaire, called on Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in Dhaka yesterday. The foreign minister briefed the visiting dignitary about Bangladesh's relations with various countries, particularly with SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member state. He explained about favorable investment climate in Bangladesh and hoped Belgian entrepreneurs would participate in the forthcoming investors' forum. The Belgian minister evinced keen interest on [as heard] current development of SAARC and discussed possible areas of cooperation between SAARC and Belgium.

President Ershad Fetes PRC's Yang Dezhi

BK110440 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] President Ersahd has said Bangladesh and China are two friendly countries whose cordial relations exist from time immemorial. The president was speaking at a dinner in honor of the visiting chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Mr Yang Dezhi, and the members of his delegation in Dhaka last night. The president said the bonds of deep brotherly relations between the two countries forged with the visit to Bangladesh by Chinese travelers Hsuan Tsang and Fa-Hsien and to China by the great Buddhist religious scholar, O.P. (Dipankosh), have remained in touch through ages. The recent increasing economic, social, and cultural cooperation between Bangladesh and China is the result of this bond. The Sunderban textile mills, the launching of the construction work of the Bangladesh-China friendship bridge over the River Burhi Ganga, and the construction of a school in China at the initiative of Bangladesh are examples of the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army of China said that friendly relations so happily existing between Bangladesh and China will continue in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. He commended the efforts of President Ershad for overall welfare of the people of Bangladesh.

Earlier, the chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army visited the BNS Isa Khan naval base and Bangladesh air force base Zahurul Haq in Chittagong yesterday. The chief of army staff, Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, accompanied him. On their arrival at the Chittagong Airport, Mr Yang Dezhi and the members of his delegation were received by the chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud. A smart contingent of the Air Force presented a guard of honor. At the BNS Isa Khan base, they were received by the chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed. They witnessed an impressive [words indistinct] by Bangladesh Navy ship and (?corps) in the Karnaphuli River.

Gandhi Meets African National Congress's Nzo

BK091609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] The African National Congress [ANC] is to intensify its struggle for dismantling apartheid and for establishing a democratic national government in South Africa. The secretary general of the ANC, Mr Alfred Nzo, told newsmen in New Delhi today that a program has been chalked out to step up arm struggle for the liberation of South Africa. Mr Nzo, who is now in the capital for the International Youth Conference against apartheid, said that there is an urgent need to mobilize international youth to translate their support for the oppressed people into practical action. In this respect, he said the New Delhi conference should play a very useful role. He thanked the prime minister and the Government and people of India for their continued and unstinted support to the South African people.

Mr Nzo, who met Mr Rajiv Gandhi this evening, said that the prime minsiter has promised all possible help to the African National Congress in their just cause. The South African leader said the Pretoria regime has unleashed brutal repression in the wake of mounting international opinion against racism which can only be compared with fascism of the Hitler era.

Answering a question, he denied that ANC has any bases in the Frontline States. Mr Nzo said that the Pretoria regime carries on this propaganda and uses this as an excuse to attack the neighboring countries.

The conference, organized by the Youth Congress-I, is continuing its deliberations which are likely to continue till late tonight. The prime minister hosted a reception for the delegates attending the conference this evening.

Soviet Experts Arrive to Assemble MiG-29's

BK101225 Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] The first batch of the MiG-29 fighter aircraft has arrived from the Soviet Union, reports UNI.

India thus becomes the first country outside the Soviet Union to acquire this futuristic aircraft.

The MiG-29s came by sea to Bombay in semi knocked down condition and were transferred to the Nasik unit of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) where they are now being assembled.

A team of Soviet aeronautical engineers, technical experts and test pilots have also arrived. The Soviet experts would personally assemble the first squadron of MiG-29's and the pilots would test fly the aircraft before handing them over to the Indian Air Force.

A team of eight Indian fighter pilots and six maintenance engineers is already in the Soviet Union undergoing conversion training at the Soviet air base in Frunze. The Indian team is expected to return here next month when the MiG-29's would enter squadron service in the IAF [Indian Air Force].

The Indian Air Force have christened the MiG-29 as 'Baaz' (eagle). The aircraft is codenamed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as Fulcrum.

The MiG-29's were originally scheduled to be supplied in April-May this year but the delivery dates were advanced by about five months as the production of the fighter had picked up in the Soviet Union.

Considered to be the most formidable frontline aircraft in the Soviet Air Force inventory, this high-performance aircraft has not been given by the Soviets to any of their Warsaw Pact allies to date.

The contract for the MiG-29's was signed in the middle of 1986 when a high level Indian defence delegation visited Moscow.

According to present indications about 40 MiG-29's would be delivered in semi knocked down condition and then this aircraft is expected to be indigenoucly produced in 'substantial' numbers.

The MiG-29 incorporates the latest in avionics and is considered to be more than a match for the American F-16's supplied to Pakistan.

The aircraft is fitted with large pulse doppler lookdown/shootdown radars giving it day and night, allweather operating capabilities against low-flying targets and freedom from outmoded ground control interception techniques. The MiG-29's sustained rate of turn is said to be among the major improvements over earlier Soviet fighters.

According to Western defence experts, the design of the MiG-29 would be a formidable opponent, likely to affect the balance of power wherever it is deployed, these experts point out.

Gunmen Kill Two Congress-I Workers in Assam

BK091255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] In Assam, two Congress-I workers were shot dead by unidentified gunmen last night at Jorhat. The victims were Mr Rajiv Rajkua, vice president of the Jorhat District Youth Congress-I, and Mr Ranjit Barua, Congress-I worker. They were ambushed by the gunmen when they were travelling in a car. Efforts are on to trace the culprits. The chief minister, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mohanta, has condemned the brutal killings. The home minister, Mr Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, has directed the district authorities to take immediate action. Several Congress-I leaders of the state have also condemned the brutal murder.

Paper Views USSR Stand on PRC Border Issue

BK101615 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
29 Dec 86 p 8

[Article by G.M. Teland: "The Chinese Offensive"]

[Text] New Delhi will do well not to underestimate the significance of the Chinese action in publicising its case on the 'Indian-

China border dispute at the UN headquarters in New York. The Chinese target is not just the world media but also the member countries of the world body. Beijing has seldom cared to take such concerted action to propagate its views on any issue at the UN (excerpt, in the case of Taiwan, especailly when there was dangerous tension around the island). It has now chosen to turn the spotlight on the border issue at the UN but not because it has suddenly developed a new respect for the world organisation. Nor is it because Beijing has discovered a new capability on the part of the UN to deal with border disputes. The unusual Chinese move can be best understood only as the first salvo in a planned diplomatic offensive against India.

The aim is obvious. It is to intensify pressure on India to engage in serious negotiations for a settlement on a give-and-take basis of the kind it wants. So far the Chinese have tried to prod New Delhi into a joint bid for this purpore, firstly, by resurrecting the so-called package proposal at every available opportunity and, secondly, by trying to remind it sharply that they have not yet recognised Arunachal Pradesh as a de jure part of India. It is because India has refused to budge that Beijing has now resorted to another stratagem.

Apparently, China hopes that by taking the initiative to enlist support for its stand on the border dispute among the UN members, it will inject an element of urgency into it, appear to as many of them as possible a sincere advocate of a reasonable compromise and, thus, to put India on the defensive. To be on the defensive can indeed be a grave handicap as much in a war with weapons of destruction as in a propaganda war.

Recent developments in Asia seem to have encouraged the Chinese to reckon that it can wage such a war from a vantage position. The most important of these is undoubtedly the shift in the Soviet policy towards Beijing. It is not just that the most crucial Sino-Soviet problem, namely, the delimitation of the border on the Amur and the Ussuri rivers in east Siberia is nearing a solution following the acceptance by the Soviets of the central navigation channel as the border rather than the Chinese bank of each river. Mr Gorbachev has also sought to reassure China on the allied issue of reducing the Soviet military build-up on this border.

What is no less significant from the Chinese point of view is the withdrawal of a few thousand of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The bulk of these occupation troops, of course, still remain in Afghanistan and no one knows when they will return home. But, as Beijing must be looking at it, even a symbolic withdrawal is to be welcomed at least as a Soviet willingness to pay heed to Chinese sensitivity. The Chinese are apparently satisfied that Moscow has resiled from its earlier defiant stand that Soviet policy towards a third country is none of their business.

A similar question of pride is involved in the Sino-Soviet rift over Vietnam. The Chinese had mentioned three conditions for a substantial improvement in Sino-Soviet ties. Apart form defusing the tension on the northern border and withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, the Chinese had also called for Soviet pressure on Vietnam to pull back the latter's troops from Kampuchea. This is, of course, a highly complicated issue. And the Chinese know very well that the Vietnamese are as proud as they themselves and will not easily buckle under Soviet pressure. But the Soviet Union has gone so far as to openly urge Hanoi to give serious thought to the question of withdrawing its troops from Kampuchea and pave the way for an end to Sino-Vietnamese dispute. This happened at the recent congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party. Again, no one knows when, if at all, the Vietnamese will respond to the Soviet call. But the Chinese apparently feel that Moscow has, for all practical purposes, recognised their locus standi in the Kampuchean affair. Mr Deng Xiaoping is entitled to take this as yet another feather in his cap.

Soviet Thinking

What has obviously pleased the Chinese all the more is that Mr Gorbachev should have, during his New Delhi visit, advocated a negotiated settlement of the Sino-Indian border dispute. The Soviet leader went even further and observed that a settlement could be reached on the basis of the historical background of the border alignment as well as the actual position at present. Thus he virtually endorsed the basic Chinese stand. It may be recalled that in his letter to several Afro-Asian leaders soon after proposing a ceasefire in the border fighting in 1962, the late Chinese premier, Mr Zhou Enlai, had mentioned that in dealing with border disputes, "both the historical background and the actual situation that has come into being" must be taken into consideration.

What a curious coincidence that Mr Gorbachev used a similar expression in his New Delhi remarks to sum up the basic Chinese approach to the border dispute! The most likely explanation is that the Soviet leader had been fully briefed on the Chinese position. It is necessary in this connection to take a look at past Soviet reactions to India-China differences. When the two communist countries were on the best of terms, they were reported to have reached a tacit understanding that South-East Asia would be in China's sphere of influence while India and the area west of India would be parts of the Soviet sphere.

A statement to this effect was made by A. Kaznacheyev, a Soviet diplomat who defected to the West in 1959 and was quoted by R.H. Donaldson in his book on Indo-Soviet relations. There has not been independent corroboration of this claim. But whether a Sino-Soviet compact on mutual spheres of influence in Asia in fact existed or not, the fact remains that the eruption of serious incidents on the India-China border in the late fifties led to friction between the two countries. Mr Khrushchev was cross with China over these incidents.

At the outset, a Soviet statement reflected Moscow's desire to remain neutral on the India-China dispute. The Soviet failure to support China angered the latter. Beijing was reported to have tried to block the release of the statement on being told about it in advance but without any avail. Having pleased Nehru by refusing to tow the Chinese line on the border, Khrushchev apparently encouraged the late Indian prime minister to hold talks with Mr Zhou Enlai although there was then a strong anti-China sentiment in India. The Nehru-Zhou [Enlai] meeting which took place in New Delhi in April 1960 failed to bridge the gulf between them.

In 1962, however, Moscow took a line favourable to the Chinese when it criticised Nehru for having failed to show sufficient interest in a reconciliation with China. Broadly speaking, a state of harmony between Moscow and Beijing was usually accompanied in the past by Soviet support for the Chinese position on the border dispute. This is precisely what is happening at present.

Mr Gorbachev's exposition of the Soviet view on the Sino-Indian border issue may well have encouraged the Chinese to believe that India cannot now hope that its case on the border, resting as it does, mainly on legal-historical evidence will carry conviction. They must also have felt that the changes in the Soviet stance on crucial Asian problems constitute as favourable a backdrop to a new diplomatic initiative aimed at embarassing India as any can be in the tangled web of Sino-Indian-Soviet relations. It will be surprising, indeed, if such an advantage did not weigh heavily with the Chinese in deciding to launch a campaign to give wide publicity to their policy on the Sino-Indian border dispute at the UN headquarters.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union have refused to show on their official maps the India-China border as New Delhi has claimed it. That they have also not shown it in accordance with the Chinese definition can be of no consolation to India. The fact is that these countries, and indeed, most others, have regarded the border dispute as extremely complicated and have hence taken the implicit stand that it is best settled on the basis of mutual accommodation between the two parties. It is this notion that Beijing is out to exploit to the full and thus try and isolate India in the community of nations.

Even without explicit Soviet support for the Chinese stand on the border issue, Beijing's latest move to outmanoeuvre India on the diplomatic chessboard would have been a major challenge to Indian policy makers. After Mr Gorbachev's pronouncements in New Delhi, the task has become particularly tricky. What is more, while rebutting the Chinese arguments and thus trying to minimise their impact on world opinion, New Delhi must be prepared for a possible Soviet bid to mediate in the India-China dispute more directly. It should be clear from the Soviet leader's sallies in the foreign policy field in recent months that he is not a man to allow the grass to grow under his feet.

It is, of course, still open to New Delhi to opt for direct dealings with Beijing with the serious intention of exploring the possibility of mutual accommodation. But such a course of action will be worthwhile only if Mr Rajiv Gandhi accepts the need to review the entire border policy with a due sense of realism.

Syrian Vice President Meets With Junejo

BK111545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, now on overnight stay in Pakistan, met Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. Both the leaders exchanged views on various topics in detail. They previewed the forthcoming Islamic summit and possibilities of a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. The prime minister gave an invitation to the Syrian vice president to make an extensive visit on an appropriate occasion in future.

In his brief talks with the newsmen at the airport, the Syrian vice president lauded Pakistan's stand on the Palestinian problem and on the cause of the fraternal Muslim nations. He expressed the hope that some political settlement to the Afghan problem will be found so as to realize the freedom and nonaligned status of Afghanistan.

Departs for Beijing

BK120307 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has said he had useful talks with Pakistani leaders on the Middle East problem and the agenda of the forthcoming Islamic summit conference. Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport prior to his departure for China this morning after an overnight stay, he said he also discussed with Pakistani leaders Syrian-Pakistani bilateral relations which have been very strong from the very beginning. The Syrian vice president appreciated Pakistan's support for the cause of the Arab people. He thanked the Government and the people of Pakistan for hospitality accorded to him and to his delegation during a brief stopover in the country. He was seen off at the airport by, among others, Federal Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Anwar Aziz Chaudhury, ambassadors of Syria and China, elected representatives, and senior officials.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq hosted a dinner in honor of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Rawalpindi last night. Earlier, the president and the Syrian vice president held talks on forthcoming Islamic summit in Kuwait and on ways to further promote relations between Pakistan and Syria.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tehran, Riyadh

BK090939 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, left Islamabad this morning on his way to Tehran and Riyadh to exchange views with the leaders of the two countries on Afghanistan and the forthcoming Islamic summit. Talking to newsmen before his departure, he said in Tehran he will discuss bilateral issues [and] review the situation in Afghanistan in which Iran has special interest. It is important to coordinate the stand with Iran on Afghanistan issue.

In Riyadh, the foreign minister said, he would discuss with the Saudi Foreign Minister Ibn Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Islamic summit in Kuwait. He would also brief him on the developments in search for a solution of the Afghansitan problem.

Authorities Seize 4 Indian Fishing Trawlers

BK101535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] The newly-formed Maritime Security Agency has captured four trawlers, which are reported to be Indian, as they were poaching in Pakistan's territorial waters. *Associated Press of Pakistan*, quoting port police in Karachi, said that seven crew members of the trawlers have been arrested and the case has been filed against them under the [words indistinct] Fishing Regulations and Fishing Act of 1969. The four trawlers were seized by Maritime Security Agency last Tuesday [6 January] when they were engaged in fishing in Pakistan's territorial waters. These modern trawlers are equipped with the latest fishing facilities.

Antitank Mine Blast in Parachinar Kills 3

BK110227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Three persons were killed and 11 seriously injured when an antitank landmine exploded underneath a passenger pickup truck at Ahmadzai near Parachinar in the Kurram Agency. The pickup was on its way to Parachinar from Malli Khel when the incident took place yesterday.

Police Teargas Awami Party Workers in Karachi

BK090324 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] In Pakistan, police used gas and batons to break up the demonstrations by the workers of the Awami National Party in Karachi yesterday. They were protesting against the government ban on the entry of the Awami National Party leaders, Khan Abdul Wali Khan and Mr Ghulam Ahmad Bilour. Reacting to the government's order, Mr Wali Khan accused General Zia's regime of generating hatred among the people.

Musavi Comments on Soviet Support for Iraq

LD111112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] In an interview today after a cabinet meeting Prime Minister Musavi commented on the recent statement by the head of the Soviet mission at the United Nations on military support for the Iraqi regime. He said: All these developments show that as far as the Islamic Revolution is concerned the USSR is also treading the path taken by the United States. This is a victory for America [as heard] after the defeat we inflicted on it. Obviously, this goes to make the meaning and immensity of our recent victories clearer; for, despite all the support by the big powers for the Iraqi regime, we continue to fight the enemy.

Aid Not To Affect Tehran's Fight

LD101426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Unattributed political commentary entitled: "The Karbala 5 Offensive and Its Irreparable Blows"]

[Excerpts] The combatants of Islam yesterday began extensive operations in retaliation for the Iraqi regime's inhumane actions, namely attacks on civilian targets and using chemical warfare. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime, which has suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the combatants of Islam in the Shalamcheh sector, in an effort to compensate for that defeat, yesterday attacked civilian targets in Susangerd and Esfahan. As a result, more than 100 defenseless citizens of those two cities were martyred and a large number of others injured. Following those inhumane attacks our forces, with advance warning, brought a number of Iraqi cities' economic and industrial centers under their fire. Such acts of retaliation will continue until the Iraqi regime's acts of wickedness are stopped.

In the circumstances where the combatants of Islam are daily delivering more telling blows at the Armed Forces of the regime ruling over Iraq, the head of the Soviet delegation at the United Nations has announced that the Soviet Union would continue its military assistance to Iraq to save that regime from being defeated. He claimed that that move would help to bring about an honorable settlement of the war.

The Soviet military assistance to the Iraqi regime has been going on since the outbreak of the war. The Saddam regime's military attack against the Islamic Republic and the Iraqi Army's advance on Iranian cities, including Ahvaz, Dezful, Shush, Khorramshahr, Susangerd, Bostan and Qasr-e Shirin, were in fact achieved thanks to the superpowers' military assistance, including the Soviet Union. But, despite all this aid, the combatants of Islam have been able to drive the enemy army out of our country and to deliver crushing blows at that army. Thus, it is clear that the continuation of the Soviet military assistance to Iraq will fail to have, nor can it have, any impact on the Muslim Iranian nation's fight to achieve its legitimate rights. All the same, it should not be overlooked that any country insisting on continuing its assistance to the Iraqi regime will in practice put itself in the ranks of imperialists and reactionary states in the region.

How could one regard military assistance to the Iraqi regime which has frequently trampled international law underfoot by its use of chemical warfare, by its attacks on residential targets, by its attack on passenger airliners, and by its acts of sedition in the Persian Gulf, as a move to help bring about an honorable solution to the war? The only effect such assistance will have is to reinforce the aggressive attitude among imperialist forces and to further pave the way for trampling international law underfoot and for inhumane acts.

Majlis Speaker Congratulates Karbala 5 Forces

LD110743 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — The Majlis speaker and representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a message to Muslim combatants Saturday, congratulated them on their great victories over Iraq in the course of the ongoing triumphant Karbala-5 operations. The message printed in Sunday's issue of the morning daily *Jumhuri Islami*, praised the Muslim forces of Iran for their acts of bravery and devotion.

In another part of the message Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said "at present eyes of all observers are fixed upon you. Hearts of the believers are awaiting the news of your victories and those of the infidels and enemies of God are worried about your fateful thrust."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani congratulated the Muslim combatants for being the vanguards of divine convoys for the cause of Islam and the Holy Koran. Both foes and friends, he added, are familiar with your acts of bravery. These all are by-products of strong faith and virtue, he said.

Protest Against Iraqi Air Raids Issued to UN

LD101905 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10, IRNA — A strongly worded protest note against the brutal Iraqi air-raids on Iran's residential areas was submitted to the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Iran's permanent representative office to the UN, Saturday. Describing the Iraqi atrocities as contrary to all accepted international norms, even during an armed conflict, the note called on the UN to denounce these crimes and take immediate measures for preventing such criminal acts.

Elsewhere, the note reminded that the international community is duty-bound to question the agents of death who enable the Iraqi regime to continue its horrible crimes by equipping it with deadly chemical arms. They should be asked to end their Satanic policies of aiding and abetting the Baghdad regime in its aggression and violation of all international conventions.

Some Iranian cities have been bombed by Iraqi forces, martrying and injuring tens of civilians.

Velayati: Retaliation 'Justified Right'

LD101913 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10, IRNA — Iran considers its justified right to retaliate for the Iraqi regime's barbaric acts if the United Nations does not take immediate measures, warned Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday.

In a message to the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Velayati reiterated that Iraqi use of chemical weapons, as well as missile attacks and bombardments of Iranian residential areas reveal the Baghdad regime's evil intentions of continuing its brutal aggression against Iran.

TANJUG Cited on 2 'Heavy Blasts' in Baghdad

LD091913 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — Two heavy blasts rocked parts of Baghdad Friday at 13:00 and 13:15 hours Baghdad time Friday, according to a brief dispatch from Baghdad by the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG. Other news agencies in the city have remained silent on the report.

The blasts were apparently caused as time bombs installed in two locations of the city went off probably at the business center of the city. Iran did not fire any missile to Baghdad Friday, and the explosions could well have been planned by anti-government Muslim guerrillas in Iraq.

The heads of the bureaus of foreign news agencies are usually Iraqi nationals with a commitment to the Ba'thist government. Head of the REUTER's office in Baghdad Sobhi Haddad and of France-Presse Farouq Shokri routinely report only news filtered through the official censorship in Iraq.

Combat Operations, 'Karbala 5' Offensive Viewed

Communique No 2 Issued

LD091701 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — An additional 1,500 more Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in heavy clashes with Iranian forces in the Karbala-5 theater Friday bringing the Iraqi casualty toll to 6,500 since the start of the offensive early Friday, said Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters.

The headquarters in its Communique Number 2 said that another batch of Iraqi soldiers were captured by Iranian Muslim conbatants among whom 350 have so far been transferred to safe places behind the fronts.

Five more Iraqi air planes were shot down by Iranian surface-to-air fire in the Karbala-5 operational region Friday afternoon bringing to 12 the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the beginning of the assault, the headquarters said.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' furthermore said that 38 Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers were seized intact during the operations.

Meanwhile, Iraqi warplanes mistakenly bombed positions of their own units in the operational theater many times Friday inflicting substantial casualties on them as a direct result of the successful Iranian surprise attack which helped disarray enemy troops, it said.

The headquarters added that Iran's Muslim combatants also crushed six enemy counter-offensives in the region inflicting heavy casualties and damage on them.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint military headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iraqis Bomb Villages Near Dezful

LD091715 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 9, IRNA — Several Iraqi warplanes bombed the villages of Jateh and Bin Ja'far around Dezful Friday afternoon. According to a report one person was martyred and three others wounded.

Iraqi Counterattack Foiled

LD091816 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 9, IRNA — A battalion of Iraqi special forces which tried to counterattack Iranian positions here was besieged and all its personnel killed or wounded by Muslim forces of Iran Friday, reported an agency correspondent. The report said that the number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded since the beginning of the Iranian Karbala-5 operations early Friday reached 7,000. The enemy battalion which was surrounded and routed by the Iranian forces shortly after its arrival at the region comprised the best Iraqi commandos.

Muslim forces of Iran mopped up another part around the eastern Fish Lake Friday seizing intact many enemy tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and vehicles.

In another development, Iraqi warplanes mistakenly dropped chemical bombs on their own positions in the Karbala-5 theater Friday afternoon with columns of smoke welling into the sky from the targets. There is yet no report on enemy casualty toll.

Iran's surprise assault has served to strip Iraqi commanders of their initiative.

50 Iraqi Tanks 'Wrecked'

LD091819 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — Columns of Iraqi tanks and armoured vehicles were grounded in Karbala-5 operations Friday as Iranian troops chased and totally wrecked as many as 50 Iraqi tanks in the region. Heavy columns of smoke were seen welling into the sky from the wrecked military hardware of the enemy troops.

Battle 'Continues' in Shalamcheh
LD100713 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 10 Jan 87

["Fierce Battle Raging in Shalamcheh" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Khatem Hq., Jan 10, IRNA — The Muslim forces of Iran in a fierce battle in Shalamcheh operational region Friday night inflicted heavy losses and damages on the Iraqi forces. According to the statement of the headquarters released Saturday morning the battle still continues.

2 More Iraqi Aircraft Downed
LD100720 Tehran IRNA in English 0717 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Karbala 5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Two more Iraqi planes were downed by Iranian surface-to-air fire in the Karbala 5 operational region Saturday morning, bringing to 14 the number of Iraqi jet fighters downed since the beginning of the offensive Thursday night.

The pilot of one of the two Iraqi warplanes bailed out before the crash. Muslim combatants are now searching for the Iraqi pilot. No report is yet available on the fate of the second pilot. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Positions Seized in Shalamcheh
LD100731 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Shalamcheh, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 10, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran seized a number of Iraqi positions in the continuation of the ongoing Karbala 5 offensive in Shalamcheh axis, Friday night. Reports from the operational region said Saturday that Muslim forces of Iran are advancing in the operational region and have brought Iraqi equipment under their heavy fire.

Meanwhile, pilots of the Iranian Air Force and havanirouz (army air support), hit Iraqi group concentration centers and set the enemy equipment ablaze. The latest figure of 7,500 Iraqi casualties has increased as a result of these attacks.

According to reports reaching here by 04:15 GMT, so far 430 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind the fronts, among whom many [are] officers, and measures are underway for the transfer of others.

Iraqi Brigade Destroyed in 'Blitz'
LD100752 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala 5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran in a blitz attack on Iraqi positions in northern Shalamcheh region completely destroyed Iraqi Infantry Brigade No 45 and surrounded Infantry Brigades 439 and 501. The Islamic combatants, now having the brigades under seige, have so far inflicted 50 percent and 80 percent damage on Brigades 439 and 501 respectively.

4 More Brigades 'Destroyed'
LD100902 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Muslim Iranian forces destroyed four more Iraqi brigades in Karbala-5 operational theater, Friday night. Iraqi Mechanized Brigade 20 of the Fifth Mechanized Division sustained 80 percent damage while the three others, armored Brigade 26 of the Fifth Mechanized Division, Brigade 418, and Infantry Brigade 45 suffered 80 percent, 50 percent, and 100 percent damage respectively.

Meanwhile, Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC headquarters reported Saturday that the Islamic combatants inflicted heavy blows on the Iraqi enemy in western Shalamcheh region Friday night. During the heavy fighting, the report added, Iraqi Infantry Brigade 45 was totally smashed and 12 more Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers destroyed, bringing to 50 the number of Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers destroyed since the beginning of the operation, Thursday night.

Iraqis Bomb Gilan-e Gharb Villages
LD100905 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan 10, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombarded three villages in the city of Gilan-e Gharb, in west of Iran, Friday afternoon. A number of livestock were killed during the Iraqi air raid.

Meanwhile, reports from the southern city of Susangerd said that the number of civilians martyred in Friday's Iraqi bombardment of the city rose to 117. Hundreds of others were also wounded. Intruding Iraqi planes bombarded densely populated areas in the city around noon Friday following their humiliating defeat in the ongoing Karbala-5 operations.

Residential Areas in Esfahan Hit
LD100908 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Esfahan, Jan 10, IRNA — The Iraqi Ba'thist regime in a bid to make up for its humiliating defeats suffered in the ongoing Iranian Karbala-5 operations, bombed residential areas of Esfahan, at 21:24 hours local time (17:56 GMT), martyring two and injuring 18 civilians. Several homes were damaged in the air raid and the injured were immediately transferred to hospitals. Two persons with severe injuries died in hospital and most of the remaining were given out-patient treatment.

'Some 14' Civilians Killed in Esfahan
LD101755 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Esfahan, Jan 10, IRNA — Some 14 innocent Iranian people were martyred and others wounded, mostly women and children when Iraqi war planes bombed two residential areas of Esfahan at 18:00 hours local time (14:30 GMT) Saturday. Damaged in the raid were some residential and trade units, and ten cars caught fire.

Iraqi planes bombarded the residential areas of the city Friday night martyring and wounding some civilians.

Casualty Toll Raised to 40

LD101909 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Esfahan, Jan 10, IRNA — Forty civilians were martyred in Iraq's Saturday raid on two residential areas here. They are mainly women and children. Earlier agency report Saturday put the toll at 14.

Relief operations are under way to find other possible martyrs and wounded people.

Iraqi Planes Downed Total 16

LD100909 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Two more intruding Iraqi planes were shot down by surface-to-air fire of the Muslim combatants of Iran in Karbala-5 operational region, Saturday morning. This brought the number of Iraqi warplanes downed since the start of the offensive early Friday, to 16.

Iraqi Pilot Captured

LD100907 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 10, IRNA — The pilot of one of two Iraqi planes, downed in the Karbala-5 operational region, was rescued from the swamps, Saturday morning. The Iraqi plane, a Sukhoy, was on a mission to bombard positions of the Muslim forces of Iran but was downed by Iranian Army air support planes.

The pilot who bailed out, was rescued after a several hour search by Iranian pilots and transferred behind the war fronts.

Kut al-Sawadi Outpost 'Seized'

LD100914 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala 5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran seized Kut al-Sawadi outpost in northern Shalamcheh operational region in the continuation of the successful Karbala 5 offensive, Friday night. Reports from the operational region said Saturday morning that Muslim forces are still advancing in the operational theater.

Iraqi Counteroffensive Crushed

LD100939 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Shalamcheh, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 10, IRNA — Iraq's desperate attempts to halt advancing Islamic combatants were crushed on Friday. The counter-offensive launched by a number of Iraqi armoured units Friday afternoon and night were immediately suppressed by the Muslim forces.

An Iraqi armoured brigade backed by Brigade 439 of the 26th Armoured Division launched a counter-offensive Friday afternoon but its men were repelled leaving behind a large number of casualties. The heavy Iraqi counter-offensive was completely crushed by Friday evening.

Later on Friday, Iraqi armoured forces embarked on another counter-offensive but were immediately surrounded by the Islamic combatants. Many Iraqi forces were killed or injured and the remaining were captured by the Muslim forces.

2 Iraqi Counterattacks 'Smashed'

LD100950 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Shalamcheh Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Two enemy counterattacks were smashed north of Shalamcheh Saturday morning. Deployed in the counterattacks were enemy Mechanized Brigade 25 of Division 6, one brigade from the Presidential Guard, and Armoured Brigade 24 of the First Division.

The Iraqi forces following their defeat around Shalamcheh region, launched two counterattacks both of which were repelled by the Iranian forces, forcing the enemy to flee the region.

The Muslim combatants are strengthening their positions in the area, the scene of a large number of Iraqi casualties and substantial amount of munitions.

'Another Iraqi Pilot' Captured

LD100953 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Shalamcheh Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Another Iraqi pilot was captured by the Muslim forces of Iran here Saturday morning. The pilot who had bailed out of one of two downed enemy planes is in coma and suffered severe legs, arms, and head injuries. He was immediately transferred to a field hospital.

Both pilots of the two Iraqi planes downed early Saturday are now accounted for.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions

LD101020 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 10, IRNA — Enemy positions in Karbala-5 operational region were bombarded by brave pilots of Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force at 06:00, 06:45, 07:40, and 08:25 GMT Saturday morning. Heavy damage and casualties were inflicted on the enemy and the fighters after the successful missions returned to base safely.

Iraqi Units, Headquarters 'Severed'

LD101052 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala 5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes mistakenly bombed their own positions several times

Saturday in the Karbala 5 operational region. The high error rate is because of their fear of being shot down by surface-to-air fire of Iranian forces.

Meanwhile, continous bombardment of Iraqi positions by Iranian fighter planes has greatly contributed to the bewilderedness of Iraqi command operations in this region.

An infiltration blitz of Muslim combatants of Iraqi positions has severed the link between Iraqi military units and their command headquarters, thus making it virtually impossible for Iraqi pilots to acquire precise information on their own troop locations at the frontline.

Following the Iraqi bombardment of their own positions at 08:00 GMT, ambulances rushed to the operational theater to carry the injured.

Meanwhile, Iranian Air Force pilots in a series of missions heavily bombed Iraqi positions Saturday, inflicting heavy casualties on Ba'thist forces. All Iranian aircraft returned safely to their base.

Iraqis Lose 2 More Planes

LD101057 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — The number of Iraqi planes downed since the start of Karbala-5 operation launched early Friday, reached 18 with the downing of two more aircraft in the operational region, Saturday.

Search operations are underway to find the wreckage and the pilots of the downed Iraqi planes.

Iraqis Hit 4 Cities' Civilian Areas

LD101236 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10, IRNA — Civilian areas in four Iranian cities were hit by Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles Saturday. An enemy surface-to-surface missile hit a school for mentally retarded children in Nahavand, Hamadan Province while another one struck an already-evacuated area in Borujerd, Lore stan Province.

The southern city of Dezful in Khuzestan was not only bombed by Iraqi warplanes but also hit by an Iraqi missile. Another city hit by enemy surface-to-surface missile was Ramhormoz in Khuzestan Province.

Reports on casualties were not immediately available.

'At Least' 35 Killed in Iraqi Raids

LD110720 Tehran IRNA in English 0714 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 12 [date as received], IRNA — At least 135 civilians including 66 school children were martyred in the latest round of Iraqi barbaric air and missile attacks on Iranian cities Saturday afternoon. Residential areas in the Iranian cities of Borujerd in Lorestan Province, Esfahan in Esfahan Province, Dezful and Ramhormoz in Khuzestan Province and Nahavand in Hamadan Province became targets of the Iraqi attacks.

66 innocent children in a school for mentally retarded children and their female teacher were massacred in the savage Iraqi missile attack on the school. Some 165 other are reported to have been injured.

The Iraqi regime unable to face the fierce fight put by the Muslim combatants in Shalamcheh region, has once again desperately resorted to beastly attacks.

In the ancient city of Esfahan the Iraqi air raid Saturday afternoon martyred 43 civilians, injured 150 others, destroyed 12 homes and 15 shops. Some 60 shops and two schools were also damaged.

In the Khuzestan city of Dezful 25 were martyred and 100 other civilians were injured.

Communique No 3 Issued

LD101232 Tehran IRNA in English 1224 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala 5 Operational Region, Jan 10, IRNA — The Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC headquarters in its 3rd communique Saturday said that in their complicated amphibous Karbala-5 operation, the Islamic combatants of Iran crushed one of the strongest defence lines of the Iraqi enemy along the border. During the operation, Iran's Muslim forces succeeded in crossing a 9 km deep lake which military experts believe to be one of the longest border defence lines, inflicting heavy blows on the Iraqi forces.

In their Friday night and Saturday morning attacks, the Iranian forces completely smashed the Infantry Brigade 45 and inflicted 50 percent damage on Armoured Brigades 439, 418, and 26 of the 5th Mechanized Division, Brigade 20 of the same division 80 percent damage, Mechanized Brigade 8 of the 2nd Armoured Division 40 percent, and Armoured Brigade 34 of the 1st Mechanized Division 20 percent, taking over Iraqi strong fortifications.

The number of enemy casualties so far has reached 7,500 while 610 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind the fronts among whom there are 200 officers and NCO's.

Meanwhile, Iranian jet fighters in the course of four separate missions bombed Iraqi concentration centers and returned to bases safely.

Iraqi forces, deploying Mechanized Brigade 25 of the 6th Division, a brigade from the Presidential Guard, and Armoured Brigade 24 of the 1st Division, launched a counter-offensive which was crushed by the Islamic forces and the enemy troops, sustaining heavy losses, were forced to withdraw.

With the downing of four more Iraqi planes on Saturday, the number of Iraqi warplanes downed since the beginning of the operation reached 16, the communique said.

Muslim forces of Iran were heavily pounding Iraqi positions and concentration centers, halting any movement of the Iraqi enemy, and advancing in the operational region, the communique added.

Shelling of Iraqi Cities Begins
LD101240 Tehran IRNA in English 1228 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 10, IRNA — Iranian shelling of enemy military, economic, and industrial centers in all Iraqi cities except for the four holy towns of Samarra, Karbala, Najaf, and Kazimiyah started at 04:30 GMT Saturday morning.

Following Friday's Iraqi air raid on the southern Iranian city of Susangerd which left 137 civilians martyred and hundreds wounded, the War Information Headquarters (WIH) in a statement on Friday called on all Iraqi people to evaluate areas near economic, industrial, and military centers in order to be immune of Iran's reprisal attacks.

Iraqi Planes Violate Qom Airspace
LD101238 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Jan 10, IRNA — Five Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of this Holy City at 00:32 Saturday (09:02 GMT Friday) following the defeat of Iraqi forces in the Karbala-5 operational region. The Iraqi warplanes before carrying out any bombing mission were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire. They broke the sound barrier when fleeing.

Iraq's Downing of 2 F-5's Denied
LD101348 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran refuted an Iraqi claim Saturday that two Iranian F-5 jet fighters were shot down in the Karbala-5 operational theater Friday night and Saturday.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here that Iran's heroic pilots who gave an excellent cover to the Ground Forces by accurately bombing enemy positions throughout Friday and Saturday, returned safely to bases. The WIH spokesman described the Iraqi claim as "pure fabrication".

Communique No 4 Issued
LD101727 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 10, IRNA — At least 9,500 Iraqi soldiers have so far been killed or wounded in the ongoing Karbala-5 operations launched by Iranian Muslim combatants in Shalamcheh region since early Friday, said Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Saturday.

The headquarters in its fourth communique said that Iranian forces crushed more Iraqi counter-assaults in the region Saturday capturing another batch of enemy soldiers, 790 of whom were transferred to safe places behind the fronts.

Five more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala-5 operational region Saturday bringing to 21, the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the beginning of the operations, the communique said.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' added that more than 100 Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers were destroyed and 10 others seized intact by the Iranian combatants on Saturday.

Iran's Muslim forces also destroyed at least 80 Iraqi vehicles and seized intact several others during the successful Karbala-5 operations, it said.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' communique furthermore said that 10 Iraqi artillery pieces were destroyed and six others seized intact.

The communique also listed other Iraqi military hardware destroyed or seized intact in the operational region by the Muslim forces on Saturday as follows:

1 — 10 Iraqi anti-aircraft guns were destroyed, eight others seized intact;
2 — 20 pieces of engineering equipment destroyed and five others seized intact.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint military headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Counterattacks 'Repelled' Total 20
LD101924 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operation Region, Jan 10, IRNA — Twenty Iraqi counteroffensives were repelled by Iran's Islamic combatants in Karbala-5 operation theater Saturday.

In one of the Shalamcheh axes, Mechanized Brigade 8 of the Third Armored Division and Infantry Brigade 418 launched five counterattacks but were repelled each time sustaining more casualties.

'Second Phase' of Karbala 5 Launched
LD110639 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala 5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — The Muslim combatants of Iran launched the second phase of the victorious Karbala 5 operation in a number of axes in the operational region, Saturday night, gaining outstanding fresh achievements.

The Islamic forces of Iran in a blitz attack on Iraqi positions in the Karbala 5 operational region Saturday night, started the second phase of the victorious operation. In the early hours of the second phase of the operation, Muslim combatants destroyed Iraqi positions and fortifications and achieved new victories. The fighting is still going on and the Islamic forces are advancing towards their pre-determined targets.

In the second phase of the victorious Karbala 5 operation,

launched from a number of axes in northern Shalamcheh region Saturday night, the Muslim combatants of Iran inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the Iraqi forces under the command-ship of the Thirds Corps which is stationed in the area.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC headquarters reported Sunday that in the early hours of the heavy fighting which is still going on, the Muslim forces crushed Iraqi fortifications and are now advancing towards their pre-determined targets. Units of the Iraqi enemy have been encircled by the Muslim forces.

Latest report from the operational region said that Mechanized Brigade 46 of the 12 Armoured Division sustained 40 percent damage and a great number of its personnel were killed and wounded and a group were captured. The POW's are being transferred to behind the front.

'Last 'Resistance' Being Crushed
LD110757 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran who launched the second phase of the victorious Karbala-5 operation Saturday night in a number of axes north of Shalamcheh, are now crushing the last resistance of Iraqi forces, and are in the process of completely destroying encircled units of Mechanized Brigade 436 of the 11th Infantry Division.

Latest reports from the operational region said Sunday that heavy fire of Muslim forces destroyed large amount of Iraqi munitions, and that anti-tank and armoured units are advancing into the heart of Iraqi positions.

The fighting is still going on with Iranian forces holding the upper hand and advancing.

Air Force Command Hit in Baghdad
LD110712 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 12 [date as received], IRNA — In a reprisal attack the command headquarters of the Iraqi Air Force in Baghdad was hit by an Iranian surface-to-surface missile, fired by the Air Force unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), at (0620), (02:50 hours GMT), Sunday morning.

The Central Headquarters of the IRGC in a statement issued here Sunday morning said that the missile was fired in retaliation for the renewed Iraqi barbaric attacks on residential areas in the Iranian cities of Susangerd, Borujerd, Nahavand, Ramhormoz, Esfahan, Dezful, Sar Dasht, and Piranshah.

Details of Missile Attack
LD111554 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — Za'faraniyah military quarters in eastern Baghdad was devastated by the surface-to-surface missile fired by the missile unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC) Sunday morning, according to reports reaching here from inside Iraq.

The reports did not exactly specify the installations hit by the Iranian missile, but a chemical weapons manufacturing plant, a housing complex for Iraqi officers, a military engineering college, and a higher technological center affiliated to Iraq's intelligence organization are located in the newly-built quarters.

The missile attack on military quarters in the heart of the Iraqi capital simultaneous with the successful Karbala-5 operations in Shalamcheh region has spread a great panic inside Iraq, and roads linking Baghdad to western Iraq were reported to be jammed with traffic, with frenzied mobs trying to flee Baghdad to inmmune places.

International news agencies reported the Iranian missile attack five hours after Baghdad was rocked, proving their close coordination with the Ba'thist intelligence organisation.

It is interesting to note that the surface-to-surface missile was fired at 06:20 hours (02:50 hour GMT) Sunday, while the news was relayed by world media at 11:15 hours (07:45 hours GMT), almost 5 hours after the missile had hit the target.

The *Islamic Republic News Agency* deliberately delayed the report on the missile attack by three hours in an effort to further disclose the link of foreign news agencies with the Baghdad regime and allow the staff of the bureaus of foreign news agencies in Baghdad to clearly hear the boom of the missile explosion.

Border Road in Use by Muslim Forces
LD110813 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 11, IRNA — A border road on Hushk-Shalamcheh axis, taken over by the Muslim forces of Iran in the course of the ongoing victorious Karbala-5 operation, was repaired and is now being used by the Muslim forces of Iran.

The combat engineering units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) repaired parts of the road which were not usable. Three kms of the road was under water.

Iraqi Plane Downed; Total Reaches 22
LD110809 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Hq., Jan 11, IRNA — An Iraqi Sokhoy 22 fighter was downed by the air defence units of the Muslim forces of Iran in the operational region of Karbala-5 Sunday morning. The fighter was on a mission to bomb positions and fortifications of the Muslim forces of Iran in the area, but was downed before carrying out its mission. This brings the total number of enemy planes downed since the start of the operation early Friday, to 22.

Captured Pilot on Crimes, Kuwait

LD110911 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — An Iraqi pilot captured in the Iranian Karbala-5 operations on Saturday confirmed that Kuwait is collaborating with Baghdad in the war Iraq imposed on Iran. He also confessed to the crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime including air attacks on Iranian civilians and its use of chemical weapons.

Iraqi pilot, Flight Lieutenant 'Abd al-'Ali Mohammad Fahad, pilot of MiG-22 of the 42nd Squadron based at Nasiriya airbase said that Kuwaiti rulers have promised to do all within their power to assist the Baghdad government. Iraqi warplanes routinely use Kuwaiti air space especially that of Bubiyan Island to raid cargo ships in the Persian Gulf as well as operational theaters in the war fronts, he said.

The captured pilot added that he had used the airspace of Kuwait's Bubiyan Island many times in its attacks on Iranian positions in the Val-Fajr 8 operational theater in Al-Faw peninsula. The pilot confessed that he had participated in the recent bombings of Abadan in Khuzestan Province, Gilan-e-Gharb (Bakhtaran Province) and Mahabad (west Azarbayjan Province) during which many civilians were martyred and wounded.

On repeated Iraqi use of chemical weapons, the pilot acknowledged that during the Val-Fajr 8 operations launched by Iranian forces in Al-Faw peninsula in February, he had chemically bombed Iranian positions four times, with 16 chemical bombs being dropped each time. He said his fighter had been loaded with chemical bombs at Nasiriya airport. The lieutenant noted that he had been awarded a medal by Saddam Husayn in May, 1985 for his criminal raids on Iranian civilian areas.

Iraqi pilots raid residential areas in Iran upon the direct order of Saddam Husayn, and any one who refuses to attack civilians will be executed, he said.

Iraqi Brigade Commander Killed

LD110909 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — The commander of the Iraqi Brigade 436, Colonel Muhammad Sa'id, was killed by the Muslim combatants Sunday morning.

An earlier report said that Brigade 436 and units under its control had been smashed by the Iranian forces.

Iraqis Again Violate Qom Airspace

LD110913 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Qom, Jan 11, IRNA — Iraqi planes violated air space of the Iranian holy city of Qom, 140 kms south of Tehran, at 11:08 hours local time (07:38 hours GMT) and broke the city's sound barrier. The red alert siren which sounded in Tehran was in this connection. The situation returned to normal after 15 minutes.

'Intruding' Warplanes Forced To Flee

LD111005 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi warplanes which violated airspace of the cities of Arak, Qom, and Malayer at 07:30 GMT Sunday, were forced to flee when faced with tactical measures of Iranian fighter planes and surface-to-air defence units. The Iraqi planes fled the Iranian territory without carrying out any mission but broke the sound barrier in these cities when fleeing.

Meanwhile, reports from Kordestan Province said that Iraqi long range artillery hit residential areas in Marivan Saturday night in which one civilian was martyred and four others injured. A military source told IRNA that 10 shells were fired on the city which caused some damage as well.

Following the Iraqi artillery attack on Marivan, Muslim combatants opened artillery fire on Iraqi positions, silencing the enemy fire.

Three Missiles Fired at Basra

LD111004 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq, Jan 11, IRNA — Three Oghab (eagle) medium-range missiles were fired on the economic and military centers of the Iraqi port city of Basra, at the early hours of Sunday. The missiles were fired by the Iranian Ground Forces in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on residential areas of Iranian cities.

2 More Iraqi Planes Downed

LD111007 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — Two more Iraqi planes, one MiG 23 and one Sukhoy 22 were downed by the air defence units of the Muslim forces of Iran in the operational theater here Sunday morning.

This brings the total number of the Iraqi planes downed in the course of the operation, now in its third day, to 24.

'Combatants' Fighting Brigade 65

LD111008 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 11, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran advancing in the northwestern wing of Shalamcheh operational region are now fighting with Brigade 65 of the special forces of Iraqi joint Army command.

Heavy artillery fire of the Islamic forces is hitting Iraqi positions and concentration centers, exerting pressure on the Ba'thist forces to surrender.

Iraqi Positions 'Bombarded'

LD111006 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — Several Iranian Air Force planes heavily bombarded Iraqi positions in Karbala-5 operational region at 10:44 hours local time Sunday (07:14 hours GMT). The Air Force pilots returned to their bases safely after inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy.

25th Iraqi Plane Downed

LD111025 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — Another Iraqi plane attempting to bomb Iranian positions in this theater was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic combatants at 13:09 hours (09:39 GMT) Sunday. This brings to 25 the number of enemy planes downed since early Friday when Iran launched its Karbala-5 operation.

Search for the pilot of the downed Iraqi Tupolev who bailed out in the operation region after his plane was shot continues.

Iraqi Economic, Military Centers Hit

LD111043 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — Iranian Air Force fighter-bombers at the early hours of Sunday afternoon heavily bombarded economic and military centers of the Iraqi cities of Al 'Amadiyah and Diyanah, said a Joint Staff command statement here Sunday.

According to the statement the fighter-bombers after successfully carrying out their mission inflicted heavy losses and damage on the enemy and returned to bases safely. The missions were carried out at 12:47 and 12:52 hours local time (09:17, 09:22 hours GMT), it added.

Communique No 5 Issued

LD111241 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 11, IRNA — At least 4,500 more Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some others captured in the second phase of the successful Iranian Karbala-5 operations, launched in northwest Shalamcheh region early Sunday, said Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Sunday. The headquarters in its fifth communique said that 14,000 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded since the beginning of the Karbala-5 operations early Friday.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' added that the enemy outposts of Shalamcheh, Bubiyan, and Kut al-Sawadi were also seized in the operations.

Some 1,000 Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's) captured during the assault have so far been transferred to safe places behind the fronts, it said.

The communique said that four Iraqi warplanes were shot down in the operation theater Sunday bringing to 25 the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the operations.

In the fresh four-pronged Iranian assault, the headquarters said, 60 Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers were destroyed and some others seized intact by Muslim forces of Iran. Some enemy vehicles were also hit and destroyed by Iranian artillery fire.

Iran's Muslim forces are now fortifying their positions and shattering the last futile resistance of enemy troops in the operational region, the headquarters said.

Khatem ol-Anbiya', the joint Army-IRGC military headquarters said that the following Iraqi military units sustained damage raging from 20 to 50 percent in the fresh Iranian assault:

1- Mechanized Brigade number 46 of the 12th Armoured Division;
2- Mechanized Brigade number 436 of the 11th Division;
3- Special Forces Brigade number 65;
4- Remaining personnel of Armoured Brigade number 26 and of Mechanized Brigade number 8 of the Third Division;
5- Mechanized Brigade number 20.

Iraq 'Again' Bombs Residential Areas

LD111256 Tehran IRNA in English 1236 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — Residential areas in Iranian cities of Dezful and Ramhormoz in Khuzestan Province, Borujerd in Lorestan Province, and Nahavand in Hamadan Province were again hit by Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles Sunday. The Iraqi missile attacks coincided with enemy air raids on the holy city of Qom, Malayer, and Kashan in Central Province Sunday.

Some civilian were martyred and wounded and many houses and business quarters damaged in these Iraqi missile and air attacks.

10 Killed, 219 Injured in Attack

LD111712 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Hamadan, Jan 11, IRNA — Ten civilians have so far been martyred and 219 others wounded, three of them seriously, in Sunday's Iraqi missile attack on Nahavand. Some 40 houses were totally destroyed and 200 other residential and business establishments damaged in the missile attack.

Borujerd was also hit by Iraqi surface-to surface missiles. Nahavand was earlier hit by two Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles on Saturday as a result of which 66 innocent children in a school for the metally retarded and their female teachers were massacred.

Iraq, whose forces sustained bitter defeats in the Karbala-5 operations carried out by Iran's Muslim forces early Friday, made several missile and air attacks on some Iranian cities martyring and wounding scores of civilians over the past two days.

Bombers 'Pound' Iraqi Positions
LD111341 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — Iran's fighter bombers, providing excellent air-cover for the Ground Forces, pounded Iraqi positions and strongholds in Karbala-5 operational region at 10:44 hours (7:14 GMT) Sunday. All planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

Meanwhile, helicopters of the Iranian Army aviation carried out several sorties against Iraqi tanks and military personnel carriers disrupting movements of the Iraqi armoured and artillery units.

Earlier reports reaching here Sunday said that the Iranian helicopters have so far targeted a number of Iraqi tanks and vehicles, setting them ablaze together with their crews.

3 'More' Iraqi Warplanes Downed
LD111623 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — Three more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in this theater Sunday afternoon bringing to 28, the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the Karbala-5 operations early Friday.

Some 1,120 Iraqi Prisoners of War (POWS) captured in the Karbala-5 operations have been transferred to safe places behind the fronts.

Surviving Crewman Captured
LD111750 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — One member of a six-man crew of an Iraqi Tupolev plane shot down by Iranian Muslim combatants Sunday, survived and was captured. The plane caught fire as it was hit by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. Five crew members of the plane burnt to death.

So far 28 Iraqi warplanes have been shot down since the beginning of Karbala-5 operations launched early Friday.

Television Shows 'Great Victories'
LD111913 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 11, IRNA — The Iranian television Sunday night screened scenes of the great victories by Iran's Muslim combatants in the course of the ongoing Karbala-5 operations launched in Shalamcheh about 15 kms north-west of Khorramshahr Friday.

The program, broadcast after the 1930 news program showed scores of Iraqi corpses scattered here and there in the battlefronts, and in canals and trenches the Iraqis had dug to blunt the advance of the Islamic combatants.

Also received in the TV program was the wreckage of a burning Iraqi Tupolev bomber downed by anti-aircraft fire of Iranian combatants in the operational theater Sunday. It was the 26th enemy aircraft downed by Iran since early Friday.

Iraq has lost 28 planes since Friday. Five of six crew members of the Tupolev burned to death, but one survived and was captured by the Iranians.

Iraqi Third Corps 'Disarrayed'
LD111546 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — The continuing victorious Karbala-5 operations have disarrayed the Iraqi Third Corps in Shalamcheh area and Ba'thist commanders have lost control of personnel under their command.

General Tale' Rahim Khalil al-Dowri, commander of the Third Corps requested immediate instructions in urgent messages to the high command of the Army on the critical situation in the operational region and inability of Iraqi commanders to reorganize their personnel.

With the blitz of Islamic combatants on the defence lines of the Third Corps and the subsequent collapse of these lines, Iraqi soldiers are now running scared with a large number of them either fleeing the area or surrendering to Muslim forces.

General al-Dowri, who has held various posts in the Fifth and the Third Corps, has been awarded 14 medals by the Iraqi ruler and has taken part in various operations under critical circumstances. The defeat of General al-Dowri in Karbala-5 operations to whom Saddam Husayn has for several times referred as the 'iron arm' of the Iraqi Army, indicates complete success of the Islamic combatants in the operation and puts an end to the myth of the invulnerability of the Third Corps.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi regime broadcast messages on Baghdad radio and Sowt-al-Jamahir [as received] urging Iraqi forces to resist and not desert the battle fronts.

Communique No 6 Issued
LD111656 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 11, IRNA — An additional batch of 1,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in heavy clashes with Iran's Muslim forces in the Karbala-5 operational theater Sunday bringing to 15,000 the number of enemy soldiers killed or wounded since the start of the operations early Friday. Khatem ol-Anbiya', the joint Army-IRGC military headquarters in its sixth communique said that Iranian forces liberated and took control of kilometers of Basra-Shalamcheh road.

At least 200 more Iraqi tanks, armoured personnel carriers and vehicles were destroyed and 50 tanks seized intact by the Iranian Muslim troops.

Three more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian surface-to-air fire in the operational theater Sunday afternoon bringing to 28, the number of enemy jet fighters downed since early

Friday.

Some 1,120 Iraqi prisoners of war have so far been transferred to safe places behind the fronts.

Iran's Muslim combatants are continuing their battle with the Ba'thist troops and crushing enemy counterattacks in the region, concluded the communique.

Shalamcheh Outpost 'Liberated'
LD111653 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 11, IRNA — The heroic combatants of Islam, continuing their advance deep inside Iraqi soil liberated Shalamcheh outpost in the second phase of the Karbala-5 operations which began early Sunday. Thousands of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded in this new thrust.

The body of the commander of Iraqi Brigade 436, Colonel Muhammad Sa'id was seen among the enemy corpses littered on the battle field. The wreckage of at least 60 enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers have so far been counted in the theater.

Scores of Iraqi vehicles and other military equipment were set ablaze and destroyed in this four-proged Iranian assault. Several enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers were also seized intact and instantly deployed against enemy troops by the victorious Muslim combatants.

The helicopter squadrons of the Iranian Army aviation service (Havaniruz) ably provided aircover to the advancing Iranian Ground Forces, rocketing Iraqi armoured and artillery units and destroying several enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers and with their crews.

Following three days of pitched battles with the Muslim forces of Iran the number of deserters from the defeated Iraqi troops at the fronts has considerably increased. The Muslim combatants have successfully broken through numerous complicated Iraqi barriers in the epic operations.

Iraqi Missiles Hit Ilam
LD111835 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Ilam, Jan 11, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded and at least 20 houses destroyed as Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles hit four residential areas in this western provincial capital at 19:40 hours (16:10 hours GMT) Sunday. Relief operations are under way to recover other bodies and wounded people from under the rubble.

Downed Iraqi Aircraft Total 29
LD120631 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — Another Iraqi plane was downed by the fire of surface-to-air defence units of the Muslim combatants of Iran in Karbala-5 operational region, Monday morning. This brings to 29 the number of Iraqi planes downed since the beginning of the operation last Friday.

'3-Pronged Attack' Launched
LD120703 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — The Muslim forces of Iran continued their operations in the region Sunday night by attacking the enemy forces. The Iranian forces launched a three-pronged attack, crippling the enemy forces. The Iraqi forces are reported to have suffered heavy casualties and damages and the Iranian forces have achieved new victories.

The Karbala-5 operation was launched in southern sector of war fronts in Shalamcheh region early Friday and during the operation the Iranian forces have achieved outstanding gains over the enemy.

Fighting Heavy With Brigade 96
LD120736 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran in continuation of the second phase of Karbala-5 operation, launched blitz attacks on Iraqi positions from three axes Sunday night. The Muslim forces are advancing in the operational area.

During the attacks, launched in north and west of Shalamcheh, Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and large amount of their munitions were set ablaze.

The Muslim combatants are engaged in heavy fighting with the encircled Infantry Brigade 96 of Iraq in one of the operational axes, enjoying superiority.

Iraqi Brigade 96 Destroyed
LD120801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0741 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarter reported a few seconds ago that following the encirclement of the enemy's 96th Infantry Brigade, the Islamic combatants, in a direct close-quarters engagement, succeeded in destroying that brigade. During the operation, a large number of enemy forces were killed and injured. According to the same report, a large number of Iraqi personnel are fleeing and vacating the area.

2 Iraqi Brigades 'Smashed'
LD120905 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — Brigade 68 of Special Forces of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and Infantry Brigade 76 which were commissioned to halt the advance of Iran's Muslim forces in the region, were smashed in a heavy fighting Monday morning. Personnel of the two battered brigades were killed or wounded, and a group of them captured.

Muslim forces of Iran are victoriously advancing towards their pre-determined targets, destroying Iraqi positions on their way.

Iraqi Casualties Reportedly 16,000
LD120918 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 12, IRNA — In the second phase of the ongoing Karbala-5 operation, over 1000 Iraqi forces were killed and wounded Sunday night and Monday morning, bringing the number of enemy casualties since the launching of the operation, to 16,000. There are a number of senior officers among those killed.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC headquarters said that thick smoke of the burning Iraqi equipment after the smash of Brigades 76 and 68 is billowing into the sky.

Iraqi Forces Said Fighting Each Other
LD120919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0756 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Attention dear listeners, here is a dispatch by our correspondent from the Karbala-5 operational theater. Following the heavy defeat suffered by Iraq's Third Corps, culminating in the smashing of most of its brigades and battalions at the hands of the Islamic combatants, the Saddam Husayn regime has brought in the special Presidential Guard to deter the advance of the Islamic combatants. These forces, which ordinarily operate as a security component of the Baghdad regime, had also taken part in the Val-Fajr 7 operations following the smashing of the Seventh Corps in Al-Faw operations. However, they suffered a heavy defeat, and having lost their combat organization, were forced to retreat.

Last night's operations by the Islamic combatants were so speedy and surprising that the presidential battalions and commanders were caught in panic and confusion. In one sector of the operational area, where the 2d, 3d, and 5th Battalions of the Presidential Corps were engaged in operations, they lost their organization, becoming panicky as a result of heavy and relentless fire by the Islamic forces. It is reported that they were fighting each other for hours, killing their own forces. This engagement shows the extent and depth of desperation of Iraqi commanders, who have lost all their decision making and organization,and who are opening fire on their own troops.

Iraqi Planes Repelled From Qom Airspace
LD120708 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text]Tehran, Jan 12, IRNA — The Sunday night red alert siren in Tehran was due to violation of airspace of the Iranian holy city of Qom, 140 kms south of the capital.

The two Iraqi planes were repelled by the air defence units before being able to carry out their mission. The planes broke the sound barrier of the city.

The red alert siren sounded in Tehran at 23:48 hours local time (20:18 hours GMT).

'Clearing' of Liberated Areas Begun
LD120750 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Shalamcheh Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — The Muslim forces of Iran early Monday morning started clearing the liberated areas in the region.

The Shalamcheh region was site of fierce fighting and corpses of Iraqi forces were scattered in the area till Monday morning.

The Muslim forces of Iran have so far buried hundreds of Iraqis killed in the latest Iranian operation, in accordance with Islamic burial codes.

Meanwhile the Iranian forces Monday morning started defusing the mines planted by the Iraqis.

Iraqis Fire Rockets at Dezful
LD120757 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 12, IRNA — Iraqi planes violated airspace of the southern city of Dezful and fired four rockets on residential areas late Sunday night, martyring one civilian and destroying several houses.

Iraqi forces attacked residential areas in the city with four surface-to-surface missiles Sunday afternoon. Scores of civilians were martyred and injured and many houses destroyed in the missile attacks.

Iraqi Air Missions 'Neutralized'
LD120914 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — Commander of the Air Defence Units in Karbala-5 operational theater announced Monday that the advanced surface-to-air defence system of Muslim combatants in coordination with the Air Force, has neutralised Iraqi air missions in the region. Speaking to IRNA, the commander referred to the downing of 29 Iraqi planes, including a Tupolev bomber, since the beginning of the operation early Friday.

He said that missile system and fire of the Iranian surface-to-air defence, employing the same tactics used in Val-Fajr-8 operation in Al-Faw, have zeroed in on Iraqi planes to the extent that pilots of the Iraqi planes have been killed immediately prior to carrying out any mission. The commander said that air defence system of the Iranian forces was programmed in a way that the moment it hit an enemy plane, it would destroy 80 percent of the aircraft.

He said that coordination between the Iranian Air Force and Air Defence Units was the major element in depriving Iraqi forces from staging any maneuver in the operational region. He called on the Iraqi pilots to bail out and surrender to Muslim forces prior

to reaching the operational region if they wanted to save their lives.

'Hundreds' of Tanks Destroyed

LD120927 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — A commander of the ongoing victorious Karbala-5 operations told IRNA Sunday that helicopter gunships of Havaniroz (Army aviation) have destroyed hundreds of Iraqi tanks since the operations began last Friday. He said that hours after the operation was launched, tens of Iranian helicopter gunships providing tactical support for the Ground Forces destroyed hundreds of Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and vehicles. The destruction of modern tanks of the Iraqi Third Corps brought havoc to the Ba'thist forces and completely paralyzed them from taking any effective counter-measures, he added.

Perfect coordination between Havaniroz pilots and the Ground Forces resulted in the siege of several units of the Iraqi forces, the commander said.

Esfahan Residential Area Bombed

LD120911 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Esfahan, Jan 12, IRNA — A residential area in Esfahan, was bombarded by Iraqi planes at 10:27 local time (6:53 GMT) Monday.Two rockets were fired at the residential area but one of them did not explode, relief workers told IRNA.

In this air attack some houses were also damaged and several people injured.

The unexploded rocket was discovered in a yard.

Centers East of Basra 'Bombarded'

LD121028 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 12 IRNA — The Iranian fighter-bombers in six separate missions bombarded economic and military centers east of Basra and in three Iraqi cities of Raniyah, Aqrah, and Shaykh Sa'd inflicting heavy losses and damage. The Iranian planes after pounding the centers returned to bases safely.

Iraqi Planes Downed Total 32

LD121031 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 12, IRNA — Three more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Shalamcheh region Monday bringing to 32, the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the beginning of the Iranian Karbala-5 operations early Friday.

The downed Iraqi warplanes attempted to provide aircover for the defeated Iraqi air forces in the region.

23 Killed, 150 Wounded in Borujerd

LD121043 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov., Jan 12, IRNA — Sunday's Iraqi missile attack on Borujerd left 23 martyrs and 150 wounded. They were mainly women and children. Five houses were totally destroyed and at least 90 others damaged in the brutal enemy missile attack. [passage omitted]

Commando Brigade 'Smashed'

LD121104 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya', Jan 12, IRNA — Over 200 Iraqi troops from Al-Qa'-Qa' [as received] Commando Brigade were killed by anti-armoured units of Islamic forces, in Shalamcheh Operational Region early Monday morning. Personnel of Al-Qa'-Qa' Commando Brigade are said to be among the most skilled commandos of the special forces of Iraqi Army.

The enemy commandos were identified by Islamic combatants when they were moving toward Shalamcheh Operational Region and all the vehicles carrying them were destroyed.

Communique No 7 Issued

LD121206 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 12, IRNA — In continuation of the second stage of the successful Karbala-5 operations Iran's Muslim combatants launched a three-pronged assault on Iraqi positions in the operational region Sunday night inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops, said Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Monday.

The headquarters said 1,500 more Iraqis were killed or wounded by the Iranian forces Sunday night and Monday. among them some ranking Iraqi officers.

In its 7th communique, Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq. said that a total of 16,500 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded since the start of the Karbala-5 operations early Friday.

Ten vehicles carrying Iraqi personnel as well as 30 tanks were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Monday, it said.

It added that four more Iraqi warplanes attempting to raid Iranian positions in the region were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire bringing to 32, the number of enemy jet fighters downed since early Friday.

Because of the disarrayment of the Iraqi troops caused by the surprise Iranian assault, the Second, Third, and Fifth Battalions of Iraq's Presidential Guard mistakenly pounded one another in one of the operational axes Sunday night and Monday as a result of which least 80 percent of a battalion was destroyed, it said.

The communique said that 50 percent of Iraqi Infantry Brigade 96, 70 percent of Battalion Two of the Second Armoured Brigade of Iraq's President Guard and 80 percent of Special Forces of

Brigade Eight were destroyed in the operations.

The Muslim combatants also destroyed 70 to 90 percent of the Second and Third Battalions of the 5th Brigade of Iraq's Presidential Guard in another axis, it said.

Elsewhere, the communique said the badly beaten Iraqi forces launched three counter-offensives which were smashed by heroic resistance of Iranian troops.

Brave pilots of the Islamic Republic air forces are providing air-cover for advancing Iranian troops in the operational region, and the personnel of Iranian combat-engineering units are continuing efforts to erect embankments, build military roads, and lift enemy barriers, it said.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint military headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).